COUNCIL DIGEST
An update on the key decisions made and matters discussed by Council at its meeting on 19 October 2020.

STRATEGY

Vice-Chancellor’s Strategic Update
The Vice-Chancellor provided a strategic update, the current operations of the University. Council discussed and noted the update including that detailed presentations on current and emerging issues will be provided under the following agenda item.

University Operating Plan 2020-2024 – Focused Presentation on ‘Our People’
The Vice-Chancellor spoke to a presentation which included highlights from the Strategic Update report, including the 2020-2021 Commonwealth Budget; Job Ready Graduates package September 2020 financial update; and updates on implementation of the University Operating Plan including priority work on curriculum viability and student employability; the Professional Services Transformation project; and the Human Capital Management ‘Workday’ project.

The Vice-President, People and Services provided a focused presentation on the ‘Our People’ focus area of the Operating Plan, which included updates on:
- staff communications and consultation;
- the Voluntary Redundancy (VR) Scheme;
- 2020 program elements of ‘Our People’; and
- the five streams of ‘Our People’, including goals and preliminary discussions by the Program Board on academic structures and leadership models.

Presentation on the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences and MQ Health Report
The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Medicine and Health) spoke to a presentation on the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences and MQ Health, including the expanded Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences; updates and progress on MQ Health; dealing with COVID-19; and strategies for a sustainable future. Copies of the MQ Health Annual Plan 2019 were provided to Council members.

Presentation on the Indigenous Strategy
The Pro Vice-Chancellor, Indigenous Strategy spoke to a presentation providing an update on the Indigenous Strategy, including the release of the Indigenous Research Plan, and Indigenous Strategy Annual Report 2019; the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Graduation Ceremony 2020; the celebration of the 1000th Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander graduate from the University; Manawari Aboriginal Culture Safety Training; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student engagement through the Wuyagiba Project; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander pathways; the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce at the University; and Mudang Dali – Indigenous Connected Curriculum.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report for the Finance and Facilities Committee – 29 September 2020 Meeting
The Chair of the Finance and Facilities Committee provided a report of the Committee meeting held on 29 September 2020.

Report for the Honorary Awards Committee – 29 September 2020 Meeting
The Chancellor, in his capacity as Chair of the Honorary Awards Committee, provided a report of the Committee meeting held on 29 September 2020 and spoke to the three honorary award nominations as recommended to Council for approval.
STANDING REPORTS

**Vice-Chancellor’s Report**
The Vice-Chancellor provided a report highlighting key matters, including the University’s response to the Australian Human Rights Commission regarding the Respect Now Always “Change the Course” Report; development of a UV Sensor by Macquarie University researchers – a world first to alert users to overexposure; and the ‘First Step to Friendship’ initiative established by the Macquarie Business School Student Experience and International Engagement teams.

**Academic Senate Report**
The Chair of the Academic Senate provided a report on the Academic Senate meeting held on 1 September 2020 including the recommendation by Academic Senate for awarding Professor Emeritus titles.

**Health and Safety Report**
Council discussed and noted the Health and Safety report.

**University Discipline Committee Report**
Council discussed and noted the University Discipline Report.

**Gender Equity Annual Report**
The Vice-Chancellor submitted the Gender Equity Annual Report, which was discussed and noted by Council.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION/APPROVAL

**Delegations of Authority Policy and Financial Delegations**
The Vice-Chancellor introduced the item, noting that the paper was discussed by the Finance and Facilities Committee, and that the introduction of Band Approval Levels will simplify and streamline the finance and property delegations in preparation for further improvements under a whole of Policy and Register review planned for next year.

The Vice-President, Finance and Resources spoke to the submission, highlighting the complexity and number of the current financial delegations will be improved and reduced under the recommended amendments to the Policy and Register; and the recommendations align with the ‘Ways of Working’ stream of the University Operating Plan 2020 – 2024.

Council discussed and approved amendments to the Delegations of Authority Policy and Finance and Property Section of the Delegations of Authority Register.

**Proposed Amendments to the Student Discipline Rules**
The Vice-Chancellor spoke to this proposal. Council noted the paper and approved the amendments.